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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1966

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F. E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1967.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year 1966.

The report is prepared and will be circulated
in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health
Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under
consideration, in general the vital statistics compare
favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

There was no serious increased incidence of
notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn, your Public
Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during
the year, and for his assistance in preparing this
report. I am also indebted to Miss J. Shirley for
her efficient services as my Clerk during the year.

I would also like to thank you, Ladies and
Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration through-
out the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Leslie St. John

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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A.

Area -	1,650 acres			
Rateable Value -	1st April, 1967	£276,164
Production of a penny rate -	1966/67	£1,030 (est)
	1967/68	..	..	£1,040 (est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ..	..	7,680
Natural Growth of Population (Births over deaths) ..	..	28

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		<u>COMPARATIVE RATES</u>	
				<u>Sherborne</u>	<u>England</u>
				<u>U.D.</u>	<u>& Wales</u>
Total	50	53	)Rate per 1,000 resident popu-)lation = 13.2.		
Illegitimate	5	3		18.8	17.7

STILLBIRTHS

Total	2	Nil	)Rate per 1,000 live & Still- births = 19.0		
Legitimate	1	Nil			
Illegitimate	1	Nil		19.0	15.4

DEATHS

Total	33	42	)Rate per 1,000 resident popu-)lation = 9.8		
				6.3	11.7

DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 year	2	Nil	)Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = 19.4.		
Under 4 weeks	1	Nil			
Under 1 week	1	Nil		19.4.	19.0.

			<u>1966</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	"	Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	"	Cancer of the lungs	2	Nil	2	3
"	"	Other Cancer	13	19	14	9
"	"	Coronary Disease (Angina)	12	19	11	13
"	"	Other Heart or Vascular diseases	28	22	22	31
"	"	Influenza	1	Nil	Nil	1
"	"	Pneumonia	7	5	3	8
"	"	Motor Vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	2	1
"	"	All other accidents	1	1	2	1
"	"	Suicide	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
"	"	Leukaemia & Aleukaemia	Nil	1	1	2

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, manufacture of industrial glass fabrics, glove making, dairies and mineral water manufacturing.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE District which are not the responsibility of the District Council.

THE HOSPITAL SERVICE

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Guild of Social Service and the meals on wheels service provided by the W.R.V.S.

Forty four elderly people benefitted from this valuable service compared with forty during the preceding year. Not only are the meals appreciated, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by the helpers who take the meals around.

D. E N V I R O N M E N T A L H E A L T H S E R V I C E S

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - Noel F. Pearson M.R.C.S.,
(Part time) L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area, and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts in a voluntary capacity as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal basis.

Senior Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn,
M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector - E. Wood,
M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff - One Clerk (part time)

WATER SUPPLY

The Wessex Water Board is responsible for the public water supplies in the district.

All the houses in the town have a piped mains water supply and no house is dependent upon a stand-pipe supply.

The supplies remained adequate and satisfactory throughout the year.

In addition to the thirty six samples for bacteriological examination taken by the Board, one hundred and twenty eight samples were submitted for examination by your public health staff, and two for chemical examination.

Five private water supplies were in use for industrial purposes. Regular sampling of these supplies was carried out. The private borehole which, during the previous year, gave unsatisfactory results is now giving more satisfactory results, in addition to which, the supply is being chlorinated.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are three sets of public conveniences in the district supplied with wash-hand basins

with a cold water supply. Paper towels and soap are available from a slot machine.

One convenience, for females, in each set is free of charge.

New conveniences, up to modern standards with hot and cold water and hot air hand drying facilities, have been provided in the old market yard car park, being conveniently placed, not only for the car park, but also the principal shopping street.

It is regretful that some members of the public do not treat these facilities with the respect or care due.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse

The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage

There is no salvage collection.

Cesspool Emptying.

No provision is required to be made in the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Your two Public Health Inspectors are appointed Inspectors (part time) under the Act.

During the year two hundred and twenty-three inspections were carried out, compared with one hundred and fifty two in the preceding year.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Forty three smoke observations were made and eight verbal notices given. Spot checks were carried out from time to time. In connection with boiler installations conflict of interests were experienced with the Planning Authorities, regarding chimney heights.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

One factory in the district is registered under the Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on <u>Register</u>	Inspection	Written Notice
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	127	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	3	-
	64	132	2

	No. of cases in which defects were found		
	Found	Remedied	Referred by Factory Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or defective	15	15	-
Total	15	15	-

No. of outworkers (Wearing Apparel) - 67

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one private swimming bath to which the public have access. Regular samples of the water from this and other private swimming baths in the district were taken during the year. Two samples proved unsatisfactory, as a result of which increased chlorination was carried out.

THE CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are two licensed caravan sites in the district, one of which has not yet been developed.

The remaining one is at Lower Clatcombe for sixty one caravans. The large majority are for residential purposes, and a limited number of spaces being reserved for caravans in transit.

Fifty two inspections of the site were carried out during the year.

In addition, one site for a single caravan for temporary use was licensed during the year.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Advice was given in respect of several cockroach and cluster fly infestations. Advice was also sought on wasp eradication.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

In the Urban District operators of the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee received 691 complaints. 16 required no action - 589 private dwellings and 102 business premises were inspected. Treatments were divided as follows - Rats 430, Mice 211, Moles 30 and Rabbits 4. The tip and sewers were also treated.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises..	..	..	1
No. of inspections made ..	..	..	5

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There are no premises registered under this Act in the district.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

SANITATION OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

All school canteens and boarding school houses were reinspected during the year. The general standard of food hygiene was good.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Sec.47

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act, unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the persons themselves, when compulsory removal is so often followed by early demise, which cannot be dissociated from the compulsory removal.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

Action was called for with regard to noise from a large factory which caused nuisance, particularly at night, and in the summer time when the ventilating roof windows were required to be open.

Remedial action was taken which effected some improvement in the existing factory shed, and no trouble has been experienced with a newly designed shed.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 2,332.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	60
No. of inspections made	91
No. of informal notices served.. .. .	Nil
No. of informal notices complied with	Nil
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	Nil
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Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses:

Demolition Orders made	Nil
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Undertaking accepted for:

Closure	Nil
Reconditioning	Nil
Other Action	Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year	Nil
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Slum Clearance

During the year a survey was completed under the Housing Act, 1964, to ascertain which houses in the district could properly be included in compulsory 'improvement' areas.

A Report was submitted to the Council in respect to seven areas, which included four hundred and eighty eight such houses.

No formal action on this report has been taken by the Council, but a considerable amount of 'improvement' is being voluntarily undertaken by the owners concerned.

Overcrowding

No 'statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Four houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

No application for 'Discretionary' but thirty four applications for 'Standard' improvement grants were received during the year, compared with one and forty eight respectively during the preceding year.

New Houses

Forty nine new houses were built by private enterprise during the year, and thirty two by the Council compared with thirty nine and none respectively during the previous year.

Thirty four families were housed by the Council during the year, compared with eighteen during the preceding year.

Waiting List

One hundred and thirty six applicants were on the Council's housing waiting list at the end of the year compared with one hundred and eighty one a year previously.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council	8
No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration	2
No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration	Nil

Samples

Forty seven samples of milk in the district were taken during the year by your Public Health Inspector and submitted for examination. All samples passed the test.

In addition two hundred and twenty four samples were taken by Officers of the County Council.

Brucellosis

No samples of milk were submitted for examination for Brucella infection by your Inspectors. This examination is carried out as a routine measure by the County Staff, and any positive result notified to me. No such notifications were received during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business, subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Trade	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to com- ply with Reg. 16.	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to com- ply with Reg. 19.
Hotels	10	10	10	10
Cafes	7	7	7	7
Public Houses	11	11	11	11
Clubs	4	4	4	4
Church Halls	5	1	5	2
Canteens-Schools	10	10	10	10
Confectioners	4	4	4	4
Meat and Fish	8	8	8	8
Grocers	6	6	6	6
Mixed Stores	12	12	12	11
Boarding Schools	21	21	21	21
Food Factories	1	1	1	1
Residential Institutions	4	4	4	4
Greengrocers	6	6	6	6
Stalls	5	0	0	0
Others	3	3	3	3
	117	108	112	108

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream	36
Sausages & Prepared Meats .	2
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 100

One hundred and nine of the before-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, seven hundred and seventy five inspections being carried out, compared with ninety three and five hundred and seventy nine during the previous year.

Food Inspection

Butchers' and Other Shops

Thirty seven inspections were made at butchers during the year.

Quantities of Foodstuffs condemned:

Meat	202 lbs.
Poultry	24 lbs.
Other	71 lbs.

Other Food

After the November floods 584 bottles of beer and assorted mineral waters were surrendered and destroyed at an hotel where the bottle store had been subject to serious flooding.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

No pasteurisation plants exist in the district.

Two samples were taken from users of this product, and subjected to the Alpha-Amylase test, with satisfactory results.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. A 100% meat inspection in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 was carried out.

There was a considerable reduction in the animals slaughtered at one slaughterhouse, but it is anticipated that the number will increase again during 1967.

The results of inspection are tabulated on the following page.

It is interesting to note for the first time in my experience in Sherborne there was not one animal examined post mortem and found to have tubercular lesions.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	3.128
Total No. of informal notices served ..	75
Total No. of informal notices complied with	69
Total No. of statutory notices served ..	5
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	5
Total No. of prosecutions.. ..	Nil

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

1966

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	271	1653	451	314
Number Inspected	271	1653	451	314
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerchi</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	19	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	41	28	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerchi	15.49%	3.63%	6.43%	14.29%
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

N O T I F I A B L E D I S E A S E

Other than tuberculosis

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	60
Dysentry	3

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
New Cases notified	-	-

Food Poisoning

There was one case of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

